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COMBINED DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION

I, the inventor,

Name: Roger Marcel HUMBEL
Residence: Baden-Dättwil, Switzerland
Post Office Address: Pilgerstrasse 6
CH-5405 Baden-Dättwil, Switzerland
Citizenship: Switzerland

declare that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the attached specification and claims and I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor or discoverer of the invention or discovery in

SAFETY-RELEASE BINDING

described and claimed in the attached specification; that this Continuation-in-Part Patent Application in part discloses and claims subject matter disclosed in my earlier-filed PCT International Application PCT/CH02/00064, filed 04 February 2002, and my earlier-filed Swiss Patent Application Serial No. 233/01, filed 05 February 2001, both of which I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C., Section 119; that as to the subject matter of this application which is common to said earlier application, I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States before my invention or discovery thereof; that to the best of my knowledge and belief the invention of said common subject matter has not been in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to said earlier application or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to said earlier application, or patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate in any foreign country prior to the date of said earlier application or an application filed by myself or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to said earlier application in this country; and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on the invention or discovery of said common subject matter has been filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as follows:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
PCT	PCT/CH02/00064	04 February 2002
Switzerland	233/01	05 February 2001

that as to the subject matter of this application which is not common to said earlier application, I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States before my invention or discovery thereof; that to the best of my knowledge and belief the invention thereof has not been in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to this application or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, or patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate in any foreign country prior to the

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date of this application on an application filed by myself or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application in this country; that I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a); and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention or discovery has been filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as follows:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
PCT	PCT/CH02/00064	04 February 2002
Switzerland	233/01	05 February 2001

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Thomas W. Speckman	Registration No. 22,617
Douglas H. Pauley	Registration No. 33,295
Maxwell J. Petersen	Registration No. 32,772
Nick C. Kottis	Registration No. 31,974
Kevin D. Erickson	Registration No. 38,736
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COMBINED DECLARATION, POWER
OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION

**AUTHORIZATION OF ATTORNEYS TO ACCEPT
AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVE**

The undersigned to this declaration and power of attorney hereby authorizes the U.S. attorneys named above to accept and follow instructions from

Patentanwaltsbüro Feldmann AG
Kanalstrasse 17
CH-8152 Glattbrugg
Switzerland

as to any actions to be taken in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorneys and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorneys will be so notified by the undersigned.

PETITION

Wherefore I Pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the attached specification and claims, and I hereby subscribe my name to the attached specification and claims, Declaration, Power of Attorney and this Petition.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

23.10.2003
Date

Roger Marcel HUMBEL
Roger Marcel HUMBEL

VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.27(a)(1))-INDEPENDENT INVENTOR (A PERSON)

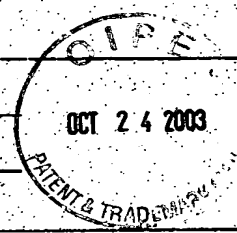
Docket Number
F-329

Applicant or Patentee: Roger Marcel HUMBEL

Serial or Patent No.: _____

Filed or Issued: _____

Title: SAFETY-RELEASE BINDING



As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor (a person) as defined in 37 CFR 1.27(a)(1), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, with regard to the invention described in:

- ☐ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
- ☒ the application identified above.
- ☐ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.27(a)(1) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.27(a)(2) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.27(a)(3).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ no such person, concern or organization exists.
- ☐ each such person, concern or organization is listed below.

Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention avowing to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.27(g)(2))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Roger Marcel HUMBEL

NAME OF INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

Date

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Signature of Inventor

Date

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Signature of Inventor

Date